Dear Cllr [INSERT NAME],

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the public in regard to a severe lack of education and training (throughout the police, judicial system and a range of institutions, organisations and businesses) in regard to the legislative change that took place on the 1st November 2018 in which new provisions, The Misuse of Drugs (Amendments) (Cannabis and Licence Fees) (England, Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2018, (“the 2018 Regulations”) came into force to allow cannabis based products for medicinal use (CBPM’s) to be legally prescribed.

A Home Office circular was disseminated to all police forces on the 1st November 2018: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/753366/Medicinal_Cannabis_-_Home_Office_Circular_2018_FINAL.pdf>

Over 5 years on and there are in excess of 30,000 patients prescribed medical cannabis for a range of medical conditions and it is lawful for these patients to possess and use their medication when required and as directed by their specialist consultant.

There have been increasing numbers of incidents across the UK where police officers, council staff, housing officers and NHS workers refuse to believe that cannabis can be legally prescribed, possessed and used, alongside patients being stopped by police both on the street and in their motor vehicle, the evidence of prescription being ignored and patients being unlawfully arrested for possession and/or driving offences.

In some recent cases, patient’s homes have been raided by police based on inaccurate intelligence.

On many occasions, these patients are refused access to their medication whilst in custody and following release from custody.

Furthermore, it has been identified that duty solicitors, the CPS and many Judges (both Magistrates and Crown) are also unaware of the legalities of CBPM’s and this is leading to professional negligence, wrongful charges and biased trials.

Furthermore, patients are being discriminated against and often threatened with eviction and ASBO’s by housing associations and it seems this discrimination is inherent across all sectors and this leaves patients living in fear, often afraid to leave their homes in case they are discriminated against, unlawfully arrested or physically abused.

This unacceptable situation across the board is causing severe harms to law abiding medical patients (often whom are disabled and vulnerable) due entirely to ignorance of the law, stigma and discrimination simply because their prescribed medication is cannabis (prescription discrimination phenomena).

I therefore request your support for the attached ‘motion’ to which I would like you to ‘move’ at the next available council meeting. I’d like to be clear that I am not asking the council to look at changing any laws, simply that the right education reaches the key people to ensure that patients are no longer discriminated against.

If you require any further information, you may wish to contact Seed our Future Ltd, an organisation which supports patients with these issues across the UK: seedourfuture@mail.com

I look forward to your reply and confirmation that you will support the implementation of this motion to protect local residents.

Your sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Contact details – including postcode]